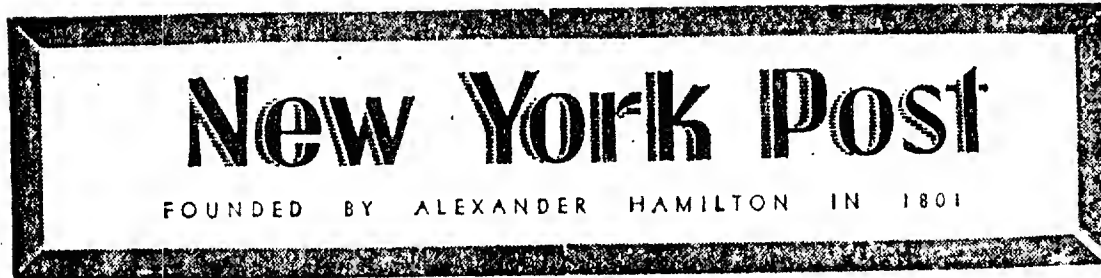


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The 'Daily News' and the Warren Commission

The Daily News, having allegedly maintained a sober abstention from strong opinion during the 30-day political moratorium, has now declared open war on the Warren Commission set up by President Johnson to explore all the circumstances surrounding John F. Kennedy's assassination.

It is The News' view that the whole case should be neatly closed with release of the FBI's still unpublished, if not "unleaked," report, and that the Warren inquiry is both superfluous and sinister.

What is The News afraid of? Is it fearful that diligent inquiry may introduce new complexity into a case in which it has already rendered its own verdict?

The News proclaims that the FBI is far better equipped to give the country the final answers than any member of the Warren Commission ("with the possible exception of Allen Dulles").

* * *

Chief Justice Warren, of course, was long ago banished from respectable society by The News; his Court's concern for civil liberties is again proclaimed as proof of his "tenderness toward Communists."

But what of other members of the commission? It includes, for example, Sen. Russell of Georgia, long a dean of Southern conservatism. Is The News suggesting that he is a collaborator or dupe in some massive conspiracy? What of Rep. Ford (Rep.-Mich.), long an ardent admirer of the FBI? What of Rep. Boggs (D-La.)? And, since The News grants at least partial endorsement to commission member Allen Dulles, why are its anxieties so deep?

Moreover, it confuses its own case; it says with some passion that the FBI report should be considered conclusive. But it simultaneously urges Congressional Republicans to dismiss the Warren probe and set up a joint Congressional committee of inquiry. Clearly, someone got his signals mixed.

* * *

As for ourselves, we reaffirm our confidence in the commission appointed by President Johnson; we believe most Americans share that sentiment. We have no pre-view or preconception about its findings; we are sure that under the direction of the Chief Justice, this will be a comprehensive, exhaustive and fearless investigation. And that is what the country—and the world—is looking for, whether The Daily News likes it or not.